

B. Physical and Population Growth

Selma has grown by 4.7 percent in land area between 1970 and 1976. It is a certain fact that additional annexation will occur on Lizzie Street right outside the town limits shortly after construction of the 100 units of Section 8 housing gets underway, since it was agreed upon by the town in its Housing Assistance Plan that such would occur should the plan be approved. The acreage annexed could vary from twenty-one (21) to possibly forty (40). Additional annexation along U. S. 301 South, Ricks Road, and/or in the vicinity of the I-95 interchange is certainly a possibility, since these are the areas where future (and present) development is expected (is expanding).

As previously discussed, the Selma Planning Board felt that the OBERS Series E population projections should be viewed as the lower end of a range spectrum with their estimates as the upper limit of growth. With concerted efforts to attract quality industry to the area and selected annexation in the sections mentioned, the 7,500 population--only a 72.2 percent increase over the 1970 figure of 4,356--is felt to be possible.

C. Economic Base

As discussed in the section on Economy, Johnston County employment figures show a definite trend from a predominantly agricultural economy to that more characteristic of diversification. This is vividly emphasized by the growth in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing employment figures when compared to those in agriculture. In 1962, the contrasting percentages were 42.8 to 39.4; a decade later, the figures were 63.7 to 21.2. So in the period of a decade, employment in the agricultural sector slipped from an almost equal footing with the other two categories to a 1972 position in which it is only one-third of those employed in manufacturing and non-manufacturing.

The present renewed interest in attracting quality industry to Johnston County is accentuated by the combined effort of Selma and Smithfield to obtain the Governor's Award. It is felt that these efforts, plus a desire to benefit from mistakes of the past, and capitalize on the excellent transportation access of the Selma-Smithfield area will prove beneficial in creating employment opportunities and helping to stem to flow of the commuter.

D. Community Facilities

Expanded community facilities in Selma can help pave the way for future development. Some of the more notable achievements and suggestions for the future follow:

1. Supplemental water supply. The Town of Selma presently has an arrangement with the Town of Smithfield whereby the former can be supplied up to 1000 gallons per minute when the level in one of the water tanks drops to a certain point. This ensures that within the next two to two and a half years--until a decision is reached by the town board as to whether or not